

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-10 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 103

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 103(a) as obvious over Stevens (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,345).

The Office Action mailed on August 27, 2004 states:

Although the prior art may have omitted to fully describe what might dictate the terms of data patterns in such circuit configurations, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to expect the delayed signals heavily depending on the input data patterns, since input data patterns such as *data frequencies (variable in nature)* dictate the terms of the output data patterns.

In response, claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended to require that the values of the delay adjustment signals change in accordance with logical combinations of the data signals. If the data signals are 4-bit signals, for instance, the logical combinations are "0000", "0001", ..., "1110", "1111", i.e., $2^4=16$. These combinations are called "data patterns" in the specification. The device recited in claims 1, 5 and 7 adjusts the output timing of the data signals in accordance with the logical combinations of the data signals. This point is described in the specification, for example, at page 14, line 9 to page 15, line 21.

If, as discussed in the August 27, 2004 Action, the term "data patterns" suggests to one of skill in the art *data frequencies (variable in nature)*, it cannot also suggest *logical combinations*. Logical combinations are not data frequencies, variable in nature, but instead are combinations of logic.

Stevens does not disclose or suggest a device which adjusts the output timing of data signals in accordance with logical combinations. Accordingly, claims 1, 5

and 7, and claims 2-4, 6 and 8-10 dependent thereon, cannot be rendered obvious by Stevens.

Amendments to the Specification

The "Brief Summary of the Invention" and "Abstract" sections are amended to reflect the amendments to the claims.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should any issues remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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